

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 240391  
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TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 240391

FOR ASST SECRETARY MOOSE AND ROBERT GRIBBIN

FOLLOWING REPEAT BANGUI 2134 ACTION SECSTATE INFO LONDON  
PARIS YAOUNDE KINSHASA OCT 5

QUOTE F C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGUI 2134

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CT, US

SUBJECT: US/CAE RELATIONS

REF: BANGUI 2132

SUMMARY: ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER POTOLOT AND I REVIEWED A  
NUMBER OF BILATERAL ISSUES OCTOBER 4 AND AGREED TO WORK  
PROMPTLY FOR THEIR RESOLUTION. I EXPRESSED HOPE THERE  
WOULD BE NO FURTHER ALLEGATIONS OF US PLOTTING AGAINST  
THE GOVERNMENT. HE SAID THEY WERE MATTERS OF THE PAST.  
POTOLOT IN GENERAL ECHOED BOKASSA'S VIEWS AND REITERATED  
THE EMPEROR'S WILLINGNESS TO WORK WITH US ON OUR TERMS  
TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE NEGATIVE ATMOSPHERE EXISTING IN  
WASHINGTON. END SUMMARY.

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1. IN A FOLLOW-UP TO MY MEETING WITH THE EMPEROR I CALLED  
ON ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER POTOLOT ON THE MORNING OF  
OCTOBER 4. THE MINISTER WAS ASSISTED BY MEA SECRETARY  
GENERAL KIBANDA; VICE-CONSUL BESTIC ALSO SAT IN. I USED  
THE MEETING TO ATTEMPT TO GET PROMPT GOCAE ACTION ON A  
NUMBER OF OUTSTANDING ISSUES: RETURN OF MISSING PASSPORTS  
(INCLUDING RANDALL'S) RETURN OF MAHER'S EFFECTS: RETURN OF AN

EMBASSY WALKIE-TALKIE, AND A SIMPLIFICATION OF THE CURRENT IN-COUNTRY TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS.

2. POTOLOT WHO WAS PRESENT AT MY SESSION WITH THE EMPEROR SEEMED ANXIOUS TO RESOLVE AS MANY OF THESE PROBLEMS IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS AS POSSIBLE AND UNDERTOOK TO SLEAK TO THE INTERIORMINISTER ABOUT THE SUBJECTS I HAD RAISED. I SENSED SOME LIKELIHOOD OF PCOGRESS ON THE RETURN OF PASS-PORTS AND THE MAHER MOTORCYCE, AND POTOLOT SEEMED SYMPATHETIC TO SOME SIMPLIFICATION OF THE TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS AT LEAST FOR WEEKEND RECREATIONAL TRIPS OUT OF BANGUI.

3. POTOLOT ALSO USED OUR MEETING TO ELABORATE ON THE EMPEROR'S REMARKS TO ME. HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE FRANKNESS OF THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS. HE STRESSED THAT THE GOCAE WAS NOT ASKING THE UNITED STATES FOR AID AND WOULD ACCEPT WHATEVER DECISION WE TOOK IN THIS MATTER. IT, HOWEVER, DID HOPE FOR A CONTINUATION OF COOPERATIVE AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS. IT REMAINED FIRMLY ANTI-COMMUNIST IN ORIENTATION.

4. I ANSWERED THAT I WAS SATISFIED WITH MY DISCUSSION WITH THE EMPEROR AND THAT I THOUGHT WE SHOULD LOOK FOR WAYS TO REBUILD OUR RELATIONS. THE CONSULAR CONVENTION WOULD BE AN IMPORTANT FIRST STEP AND WE WOULD SOON BE SUBMITTING A DRAFT FRENCH TEXT TO THE MINISTRY FOR ITS CONFIDENTIAL

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ICONSIDERATION. I ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT THERE WAS ONE OTHER ELEMENT OF OURRELATIONS WHICH NEEDED ATTENTION: THE REPEATED ACCUSATIONS OF USG INTERFERENCE IN THS INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE CAE. EVERYTIME THAT THESE CHARGES REA EMERGED A VERY NEGATIVE REACTION WAS CREATED IN WASHINGTON, AS HE KNEW, IT WAS THE FIRM POLICY OF THE US NOT TO INTERFERE IN THE AFFAIRS OF OTHER STATES. POTOLOT SAID THAT THESE WERE THINGS OF THE PAST. THEY WOULD NOT REOCCUR IN THE FUTURE. I SAID WE WOULD BE HAPPY IF THAT WERE THE CASE AND ORIGINALLY DID NOT WANT TO SEE THESE ACCUSATIONS ONCE AGAIN BECOME A SUBJECT FOR BILATERAL DISPUTE.

5. COMMENT: POTOLOT, WHO IS ONE OF THE EMPEROR'S CLOSEST CONFIDENTS, IS USUALLY A FAITHFUL INTERPRETER OF BOKASSA'S MOOD. HIS EFFUSIVE CORDIALITY AND RECEPTIVITY TO PROPOEALS FOR SOLVING OUTSTANDING ISSUES ARE INDICATIVE OF THE GOCAE'S CURRENT DISPOSITION TO AVOID A CONFRONTATION WITH US AND TO SEEK A CALMER ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH TO WORK. WE SHALL RESPOND KIN KIND ALTHOUGH I SHALL CONTINUE TO SEEK WAYS IN WHICH WE CAN KEEP OUR BROADER HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS BEFORE APPROPRIATE GOCAE OFFICIALS.

QUAINTON UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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